WOMONSPACE NEWS

FEB 1984
VOL.2 NO.2

Editorial

IT'S TIME TO DO OUR SHARE!

Womonspace will be holding it's next dance on Saturday February 18 at Hazeldean Hall as they have done for the last year or so. It will come and go, and most women will leave without giving the organizers of the dance a second thought. We are used to attending the dances once a month, and every now and then we hear a plea for volunteers, but the dances continue as usual so it must be okay. "Somebody else always does it so I don't have to worry!" Right? Well, unfortunately that is no longer the case. The current 'volunteers' (the same women who have been organizing and working at the dances since time immemorial) are suffering from extreme burn-out and as such, Womonspace is running into serious problems with the dances. The bottom line of the issue is that we, the lesbian community of Edmonton, may no longer have monthly dances! That would leave us with only Wednesday nights at the Roost. Now, I don't want to see that happen and I'm sure there are many of you who don't want that either. The Womonspace Board does not want to see that happen either, so at the January general meeting it was suggested that we look at the possibility of passing the following motions:

1. "That all future dances, as of March 1984, will be open to members of Womonspace and signed-in guests only, according to ALCB regulations".

2. "In the future, each member of Womonspace will be responsible for three (3) hours of volunteering per year for functions, and that the admission price at dances will remain at $5.00 for members, and will increase to $7.00 for non-members."

Now before anyone gets all upset, please remember that these have not yet been passed. If you have strong feelings about these suggestions remember that they will be discussed at the next general meeting (Tues., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Every Woman's Place, 9925 - 112 Street). In all actuality, we (the woman who regularly attend the dances, but do not volunteer) should have expected this. We have all seen the posters, etc., at the dances begging for volunteers and yet we ignored them. We've seen the ads in this newsletter reminding us that volunteers are needed and we've even been offered money for some of the work involved and yet we still have done nothing. One hour every month or so setting up tables or selling tickets at the door or pouring drinks at the bar is not really asking too much. (Besides its a great way to see exactly who is at the dance and who isn't!) And because we haven't spoken up sooner we are facing either no dances or stricter membership policy. Volunteering a few hours per year of your time is not that bad considering the alternative. We all enjoy the dances and since they are lesbian dances, it is the responsibility of the lesbians in the community to see that they are organized.

It is unfair to expect the same women to do it over and over again. We have to start accepting responsibility for the consequences of our actions (or lack of action) and thus, if the dances are discontinued, each one of us has nobody to blame but ourselves. One hour every other month is really not that much, is it? If you are willing to volunteer, please leave your name and phone number on the "Volunteer Sheet" at the next dance; and remember the motions noted above will be discussed at Every Woman's Place on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Please try to attend!

Jean Leggett

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your organization and your supporters for the efforts made in making Wednesday night at The Roost a success for Ladies Night.

It is people, like the Gay women of Edmonton, that make our community a happer place to live.

On behalf of the Roost and staff we wish continued success to Womonspace and our Gay Sisters of Edmonton in the coming New Year.

Yours truly,

Jim Schafer
MANAGER
"The Roost"

GATE
GAY ALLIANCE TOWARD EQUALITY

10173-104 St. EDMONTON (403)424-8361

- DROP-IN CENTRE
- PEER COUNSELLING
- SPEAKERS' BUREAU
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- SOCIAL EVENTS
- LIBRARY

ISSUES FOR WOMEN:

A DISCUSSION AND FILM SERIES

The Woman's Program at the University of Alberta and Athabasca University are co-sponsoring a discussion and film series beginning in February and running through to March. Registration is not required and you may attend any of the sessions at no charge at Room 332, Corbett Hall (82 Avenue and 112 Street) 7:30-9:30 on the following Wednesday evenings:

Feb. 8 - "Issues Impacting on the Status of Women in Alberta" Amanda LeRougetel, Alberta Status of Women Action Com.

Feb. 15- "Better Jobs or No Jobs: How Will Microtechnology Affect Women" Donna Anthony, Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women

Feb. 22- "Does Education Lead to Employment? Opportunities and Barriers for Women" Women's Educational Research Project, C.C.I.O.W.

Feb. 29- "New Concepts in Understanding Violence Against Women" Anne Runyan, Alberta Society of Women Against Violence and The Sexual Assault Centre.

March 7- "Women and Peace: A Global Perspective" Joan Mercer, Women's Disarmament Campaign

March 14- "How Does P.M.S. Affect Your Life (Pre-Mentrual Syndrome)?" Vicki Davidson, Public Health Nurse and sufferer of P.M.S.

March 21- "Sexual Harassment: An Exploration and Discussion of the Issue" Alliance Against Sexual Harassment

For additional details, please call the Women's Program, U. of A. 432-3093

WEN-DO

"Wen-do" is a Japanese word that means "Woman's Path or Way"; it is also a new system of self-defense for women, taught by women. It was developed in Toronto and has been actively taught across Canada, the U.S.A., and Europe since 1972. It has adopted techniques from many other forms of martial arts for use against the specific types of both verbal and physical attacks common to women. Unlike other forms of self-defense, Wen-do is based on three factors in order to help reduce the chances of violence against women:

1) awareness - because it is designed specifically for women, it focuses on how we are socialized and conditioned to be ignorant of the power of our own bodies in defending ourselves;

2) avoidance - a great deal of emphasis is placed on the attacks themselves, where and why they do occur; whether it be harassment on the streets, public places, work or violence in the home, and offers alternate ways of dealing with the different types in order to reduce the necessity for action; and

3) action - through instruction and application of techniques such as kicks, blocks, punches, balance, breathing patterns, etc., we can increase our self-confidence and realize, if we chose to, we can effectively assess a situation and successfully defend ourselves.

One of the main goals of the Wen-do program is that through mind and body coordination, awareness and discussion and through the actual physical techniques themselves, participants realize that we can effectively assess, respond, and control our environments.

The high point of the workshops come near the end when the one-inch thick, square pine boards are brought in, set up on bricks, and the participants apply the techniques they learned to break these boards. (This is no exaggeration; I had this demonstrated for me during the interview!)

Children who have taken the workshop are just as successful at breaking the boards as the adults are!

Wen-do is divided into three categories; basic, intermediate, and advanced, and practice workshops and workouts are organized on a regular basis.

If you're interested in learning how to defend or prepare yourself for possible violence, or if you just want to spend a couple of days chatting and 'working out' or just having fun with some pretty interesting women, Wen-do is the thing for you.

Next courses scheduled:

Basic Wendo - Feb. 28 & 29 - $40.00 (cost negotiable)

Intermediate - March 3 & 4 - $30.00

For further information contact:

Anne 452-1454 Kris 962-6522
Janet 469-6148 Candy 489-1777

From Sidonie G. Colette's *Claudine à l'école* (1905?)

METAMORPHOSIS

- Looking for Entertainment

The entertainment committee for the 7th annual METAMORPHOSIS want to hear from western Canadian gay and lesbian entertainers who have not performed for the Metamorphosis concert in the past.

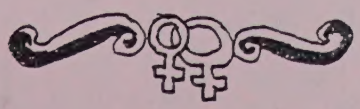
METAMORPHOSIS is an annual prairie gay and lesbian celebration held in Saskatoon on Thanksgiving weekend and is attended by many people from across the prairies. The weekend is full of activities. It includes: coffee houses, an evening concert, feasts, dances, a craft fair of gay and lesbian art work and workshops such as health, spirituality, alcohol and drug abuse, clowning, weight lifting and many more. Children of gays and lesbians also have a weekend full of craft, musical, self-defense and many more workshops.

We are now seeking entertainment for the concert, coffee house and dance activities for METAMORPHOSIS 1984 (Oct. 5-8). Entertainment in the past has consisted of children's music, ethnic and modern dance, folk and political vocalists, classical music and comedy. We would like to be able to consier a variety of entertainment for the concert and coffee house and would also like to hear from dance bands.

There are funds to pay performers.

Please send a tape or other examples or description of your work to the following address by March 31/84.

METAMORPHOSIS - Entertainment
Box 7508
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



FREE ADMISSION · FREE · NO COVER CHARGE · FREE ADMISSION · FREE · NO COVER CHARGE · FREE · FREE · NO COVER CHARGE · FREE ADMISSION · FREE

EVERY
WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
8:00 → 1:00
FEMALE D.J.
womon's night
AT THE
ROOST 10345 104ST

COMMON WOMAN BOOKS

Alberta's Only Feminist Bookstore

non-sexist children's books
records * jewelry * t-shirts
fiction * feminist theory
overcoming male & female stereotypes
a good selection of lesbian literature

Tuesday & Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

8208 - 104 Street 432-9344

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The date is March 8; mark it on your calendar! A march will be held on March 10; mark that on your calendar too! A schedule of events for International Women's Day should appear in next month's issue of WOMONSPACE NEWS.

"The Moral Position of Inverts"

"Inverts should have the courage and independence to be themselves, and to demand an investigation. If one strives to live honorably, and considers the greatest good to the greatest number, it is not a crime nor a disgrace to be an invert. I do not need the law to defend me, neither do I desire to have any concessions made for me, nor do I ask my friends to sacrifice their ideals for me. I too have ideals which I shall always hold. All that I desire - and I claim it as my right - is the freedom to exercise this divine gift of loving, which is not a menace to society nor a disgrace to me. Let is once be understood that the average invert is not a moral degenerate nor a mental degenerate, but simply a man or a women who is less highly specialized, less completely differentiated, than other men and women, and I believe the prejudice against them will disappear, and if they live uprightly they will surely win the esteem and consideration of all thoughtful people. I know what it means to an invert - who feels himself (herself) set apart from the rest of mankind - to find one human heart who trusts him (her) and understands him (her) and I know how almost impossible this is, and will be, until the world is made aware of these facts."

Anonymous Lesbian 1901
- early lesbian defense in
Gay American History -
Jonathon Katz, 1976

WOMEN'S STUDIES AT THE U. OF A.

The Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta is once again this year offering non-credit courses of specific interest to all women. The Women's program began in July '81 and since have provided courses, workshops, seminars and public forums dealing with a variety of areas from personal and skill development for women to a history and analysis of current feminist thought. Classes are offered during the day, evenings, noon-hours and on weekends, and since they are non-credit courses, educational background is unimportant. Both childcare and financial assistance are available when possible so that no women can be prevented from participating in the courses. Some of the courses include:

"Self Esteem for Women"
"Assertiveness Workshop For Women"
"Stress Management For Women"
"Women In The Economic Crisis"
"Sampler In Women's Studies"
"The Law As it Affects Women"
"An Introduction To Feminist Thought"

If you are interested in registering for any of the courses or in just obtaining more information registration forms are available at Every Women's Place; or from The Women's Programs, Faculty of Extension, The University of Alberta, 236 Corbett Hall, 82 Ave. and 112 St., Edmonton T6G 2G4 432-3093. Courses run from January to June 1984.

ROCKING THE CRADLE

Any gay women considering having children are welcome to a friendly discussion that will take place on Sunday, February 26, 7:00 p.m., at 6208 - 106 Avenue. For further information, please phone Lindy at 469-2143.

LESBIAN JOURNAL

Sinister Wisdom is a journal of lesbian experience. Each issue contains stories, articles, poetry, artwork, an interview, and more. Although it is an American publication, Canadian women can identify closely with many of the writings.

A recent issue, entitled 'A Gathering of Spirit', was devoted to North American Indian women. The latest issue (#25) includes erotic satire, mental hospital life, butch/fem in the 50's, Jewish resistance, U.S. Navy dykes, incest, surviving as a welfare mother, lesbian childhood, science fiction...the list goes on and on.

If you are interested in subscribing to Sinister Wisdom, the address is:

Sinister Wisdom
P.O. Box 1023
Rockland, ME 04841
U.S.A.

1 year will cost $15.00 (U.S. funds) Indicate which issue you would like to begin with. Subscriptions are free to women in prison and mental institutions.

Individual issues are also available right here in Edmonton at Common Woman Books.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WOMONSPACE GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY

- A film night is in the planning stages for our Thursday night drop-ins.
- A $600.00 donation by Womonspace to GATE has been received by them with many thanks.
- A brochure on Womonspace is in the making.
- We are looking for a female entertainer for Gay Pride Week in June; someone who will attract a large audience.
- Part-ownership of a club was offered by one member; be at the February meeting to discover the outcome.
- In order to encourage further discussion, visiting, and to meet newcomers, coffee and cookies will be offered at the close of future meetings.
- At the time of the meeting, we had neither a dance-coordinator nor a bar-coordinator for the January dance. The perpetual problem of the lack of volunteers was discussed at length.
- Three notices of motion were made for February's meeting:
  (1) All dances as of March will be for members and signed-in guests only (in accordance with ALCB regulations).
  (2) Each member will be responsible for 3 hours of volunteering per year.
  (3) The price of admission to dances will be increased to $7.00 for non-members (member price will remain at $5.00).

All members are encouraged to attend February's meeting in order that a quorum will be obtained to vote on the motions.

Womonspace Events

BOARD MEETING

Jan. 28 - 12:30 noon
6208 - 106 Avenue
Mary's 469-2143

DROP-IN

Every Thursday, from 7-9 p.m., Every Woman's Place will be open for a drop-in. Come upstairs to Womonspace's room and check it out.

Does anyone have books or magazines of special interest to lesbians that they are willing to donate? Reading material on hand at the drop-in would be greatly appreciated!

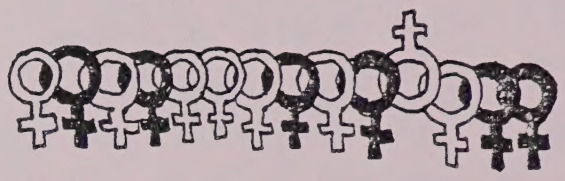
Womonspace News extends it's sincere apologies for the mix up on the dates of the drop-in in January's newsletter. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Womonspace Parents Night

Are you tired of saying "no" to your parents when they ask if they can come out with you? Well, we are too and we'd love to hear from other lesbians who feel the same way and who are interested in organizing or attending an event (a dinner?) specifically for our parents. If you are interested, please contact either Norma C. at 433-8678 or Jean L. at 426-1886.

GENERAL MEETING

Every Woman's Place
February 14 at 7:30 p.m.
(Second Tuesday of every month)



I would be interested in talking to or hearing from anyone interested in assuming the positions of bar coordinator and/or permanent dance coordinator.

Please contact me at 433-8678 or write c/o E.W.P., 9926 - 112 Street for more information.

Norma Collingwood
Activities Director

P.S. We also need volunteers for the newsletter committee. If you are interested, you can contact me at 426-1886.

Jean L.

CREDITS: Candace, Lindy, Gwyneth, Confusius, Jean, and thanks to the gang in Millwoods who folded the January Newsletter.

WOMONSPACE NEWS is published monthly by Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton. Womonspace is a non-profit, social, recreational and educational organization for lesbians in Edmonton. Mailing address: 'Womonspace News', c/o Every Woman's Place, 9925-112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1L7

FEBRUARY 18,1984
ADMISSION: $6.00
MEMBERS: $5.00
HAZELDEAN HALL ~
9630-66 AVENUE
HOT & COLD BUFFET
~8:00 P.M. TO 1:00 A.M.
DANCE

W O M O N S P A C E

Membership Application

WOMONSPACE is Edmonton's only non-profit social, recreational and educational resource group for lesbians. And we are run by our members. This means that as a member of WOMONSPACE, you have the unique opportunity to create as much as partake in social activities planned just for us. WOMONSPACE gives you a chance to share your skills and meet women with similar interests while contributing to a social community of our very own. As part of your membership application, please take the time to answer the following questions. It will help us better serve your needs in the future. All information that you entrust to WOMONSPACE is held strictly confidential.

1. What activities would you like to see sponsored by WOMONSPACE?

_____

_____

_____

2. What are your interests and hobbies? _____

_____

3. What special skills or talents do you have? (i.e. photography, typing, organizational, etc.) _____

_____

4. What expectations do you have of WOMONSPACE? _____

_____

5. Are you interested in volunteering? If so, in what capacity?

_____

_____

****

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ AGE: _____

Please enclose a $10.00 donation with your application. Return your application to WOMONSPACE, c/o Every Woman's Place, 9926 - 112 Street, Edmonton T5K 1L7. A membership card will be forwarded to you. Please do not sent cash through the mail.